

Extracts.

THE TRUNDLE BED.

As I rummaged through the garret,
Listening to the falling rain,
As it pattered on the chimney,
And against the window pane,
Peeping over chests and boxes,
Which with dust were thickly spread,
I saw in the farthest corner
What was once my trundle bed.
And I drew it from the recess
Where it had remained so long,
Hearing all the while the music
Of my mother's voice in song.
As she sang her sweetest accents,
Which I since have often heard—
"Hush my dear, lie still and slumber,
Holy angels guard thy bed."
As I listened, recollections
That I thought had been forgot,
Came with all the gush of memory,
Rushing, thronging to the spot.
As I wended back to childhood,
To those merry days of yore,
When I fancied, beside my mother,
By this bed upon the floor.
Then it was with hands so gently
Placed upon my infant head,
That she caught my lips to utter
Carefully the words she said.
Never can it be forgotten
Deep are they in memory given—
"Hallowed be thy name, O Father!
Father! Thou art in Heaven!"
This she taught me, then she told me
Of its import great and deep.
After many a long and earnest
"Now I lay me down to sleep,"
Then it was with hands uplifted
And in accents soft and mild,
"That my mother said, 'O Father,
Father, do Thou bless my child.'"
Years have passed, and that dear mother
Long has moulded death's shroud,
And I trust her sainted spirit
Revels in the house of God.
But that scene of childhood's night
Never has from memory fled,
And it comes with all its freshness
When I see my trundle bed.

HOBSON'S POLLY—AN UNROMANTIC STORY.

(From "The Country.")

It was easy to see that Hobson had "vied" from the people, and from very indigent people, too. There was an intensely plebeian air in every line of his fierce countenance and every curve of his ill-proportioned body, that riveted one's attention in a moment, in spite of his lowly profession of gold watch-chain, black docket, and a pair of Lord Mayor's Show banners, set forth the numerous vulgar advantages which were to be derived from the occupation of this stuporous mass of bricks and mortar. Hobson's own artistic forefinger, dipped in whitewash, had traced the words "LIT inside one of the windows, and the bleak December wind, worthy a better cause, he trumped through the snow night and morning to admire his castle.

One wet and windy morning, early in the year, he found the man who had assisted in the original erection waiting outside. The foreman approached him, touched his hat respectfully, and spoke in the name of his fellow-workmen.

"We want to know if you could give us a job on the castle, sir. We're out on strike." "Out on the strike," said Hobson; "you've no business to be out on strike."

"It ain't our fault, sir," replied the man; "it's a strike and a lock out too. Our wages wasnt no more, and the gawr yar turned us all out. We're most on married men, and we've got to get through this hard winter, if we don't take up on us and give us work, I don't know."

This appeal struck Hobson's watch-chain, glided off, passed straight through his waistcoat, and reached his heart.

"Well," he said, "I was thinking a stack of chimneys on that wing wouldn't be a bad thing. I'll have one run."

There was no earthly use for a stack of chimneys there, but it had long been a cherished idea of Hobson's. He had thought there was an air of incompleteness about the roof, and a stack of chimneys seemed the very thing wanting. He offered the men several wages, and found other little improvements which he thought "the estate," which would find them work for several weeks.

It was very bad principle, perhaps, to employ men who were more or less fighting against capital, but Hobson did it, nevertheless.

"He ain't a bad sort, by no means," observed the foreman, when they were drinking his health that night; "but he don't know no more about building."

The chimneys were finished, and Hobson stood admiring their majestic ensemble. The wind blew in what noveltists call "angry gusts," and caught up one or two slates from Hobson's roof and deposited them among the adjacent turnips. A brick too, which one of the men had carelessly laid on a portion of the scaffolding, was removed, passed within a few inches of Hobson's head, and fell with a beautifully-timed noise on its way to terra firma.

INSURANCES.

NOTICE.

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

FROM and after this date, a Discount of 20 per cent. on the current rates of Premium will be allowed on all contributions.

ROBERT S. WALKER & Co., Agents, Royal Insurance Company, 11182 Hongkong, 24th June, 1872.

YANG-TSING INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF SHANGHAI.

CAPITAL AND SURPLUS 765,000 TAELS.

POLICIES granted on Marine Risks to all parts of the World, at current rates.

This Association will, until further notice, provide out of the earnings, first for an interest dividend of 15%, for shareholders on Capital, and thereafter distribute among Policy holders annually, in cash, ALL the profits of the underwriting business pro rata to amount of premium contributed.

RUSSELL & Co., Agents, 11089 Hongkong, 9th July, 1872.

NOTICE.

FROM and after this date the following rates will be charged for SHORT PERIOD INSURANCES, viz:—

Not exceeding 10 days, 1/2 of the annual rate.
Not exceeding 1 month, 1/3 of the annual rate.
Not exceeding 3 months, 1/4 of the annual rate.
Not exceeding 6 months, 1/5 of the annual rate.
Not exceeding 12 months, 1/6 of the annual rate.

AGENTS, ALLIANCE FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, 11773 Hongkong, 28th August, 1869.

NOTICE.

THE QUEEN INSURANCE COMPANY.

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That the share capital of the Company be divided into 100,000 shares of 10 taels each.

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